

From: bg@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 6:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am appalled, and extremely concerned, about language in the proposed settlement with Microsoft that will serve to (very possibly) destroy open source software projects that have helped the internet to thrive and which continue to provide high-quality, reliable computing alternatives to those of Microsoft. Open source and free software projects are important to all kinds of entities, including academia, small business, non-profits, and others. The Linux operating system is the ONLY operating system that provides even a hint of competition to Microsoft. Are you proposing a "settlement" that will actually serve to DIMINISH that competition??? Absolutely incredible. I would think that your proposed settlement would include provisions to force Microsoft to cooperate with interoperability (in a local network, for example) between Windows and other operating environments, so that customers can choose freely.

Could it be that the DOJ attorneys lack an awareness of Open Source and free software? If so, I encourage the reading of the following book, which provides an excellent history:

Rebel Code: The Inside Story of Linux and the Open Source Revolution
by Glyn Moody
Perseus Publishing, 2001

Thank you,

-Bill-

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CC: Senator Fred Thompson, Sen. Bill Frist